

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

**PARK NEEDED.**—At the intersection of Grand and Western av. there is a small vacant triangle which I suppose is city property. At present it is fenced off from the public use, although it would make an ideal resting place if equipped with benches and if the fence were taken down. This part of the city is congested and the space is needed for the enjoyment of the people living in that section. The Day Book would be doing a good turn if you succeed in having this little green plot opened up to the public.—J. W.

**PENITENTIARY BROOMS.**—In the "Bits of News" column of The Day Book is noted a statement that Warden E. M. Allen, Joliet pen, is said to have notified Springfield that he will resign if not permitted to pick his own assistants, regardless of civil service regulations.

Is it the desire of Warden Allen to have all employees such as the foreman of the broom shop, who had never seen the inside of a broom plant, appointed to that position.

Is such a man competent to pass upon quality and value of broom corn bought by the state.

The broom makers of the state of Illinois would also like to know why the law is violated in that no bids are asked when broom corn and other supplies are purchased for that plant.

Why a broom corn dealer of Arcola is favored with all this business? How this dealer can afford to keep a man in Joliet at all times to look after this business?

Why the latest improved machinery is used in the prison broom plant when the work could and should be done by hand, and the law provides that work shall be done by hand and foot power.

Why the last report of this prison shows that brooms to the value of \$766 were sold to state institutions

and \$80,129.39 sold on the open market and why the 40 per cent clause is not lived up to?

Who is benefiting by the disgusting show of moving picture films, showing the inmates hiding their faces to avoid being recognized in these pictures?

And, lastly, why the products of this broom plant are sold through the Monarch Broom Co., with offices in the Hearst building, and what do the salesmen of that concern receive as salaries?

Trusting that Warden Allen may be able to reply, I am—Will R. Boyer, Sec'y-Treas. International Broom and Whisk Makers' Union.

**TWILIGHT SLEEP.**—Twilight sleep is produced by scopolamin and morphine injected hypodermatically. Anyone who has read anything about the subject is acquainted with the fact that it claimed for this method that no injuries to either mother or baby occur. Of course, if too much scopolamin-morphine is injected or in anyway is not administered correctly the result may be asphyxiation or blue-babies. Further, by comparison out of 1,000 babies born under twilight sleep, 39 died within the first two weeks, whereas 49 babies died in the 1,000 born in pain in same period. This is according to the authorities on the subject.

It is not my object to argue with anyone what is considered scientific or the contrary. My point is this: The fact that drugs are used at all is to my mind unscientific because it is unnatural. Not taking into account the fact that a great difference of opinion exists even among the authorities as to how much of the drug should be given, or what constitutes genuine twilight sleep, it is a drug to deaden the sensibilities. Now, I am considering this subject from a purely natural standpoint. I know that childbirth is a horror to most women. Also it may leave the woman maimed for life and the child may die. But